



Atmospheric number size distributions of soot particles and estimation of emission factors

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**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

Atmospheric number size distributions of soot particles and estimation of emission factors

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Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

Abstract

Number fractions of externally mixed particles of four different sizes (30, 50, 80, and 150 nm in diameter) were measured using a Volatility Tandem DMA. The system was operated in a street canyon (Eisenbahnstrasse, EI) and at an urban background site (Institute for Tropospheric Research, IfT), both in the city of Leipzig, Germany as well as at a rural site (Melpitz (ME), a village near Leipzig). Intensive campaigns of 3–5 weeks each took place in summer 2003 as well as in winter 2003/2004. The data set thus obtained provides mean number fractions of externally mixed soot particles of atmospheric aerosols in differently polluted areas and different seasons (e.g. at 80 nm on working days, 60% (EI), 22% (IfT), and 6% (ME) in summer and 26% (IfT), and 13% (ME) in winter). Furthermore, a new method is used to calculate the size distribution of these externally mixed soot particles from parallel number size distribution measurements. A decrease of the externally mixed soot fraction with decreasing urbanity and a diurnal variation linked to the daily traffic changes demonstrate, that the traffic emissions have a significant impact on the soot fraction in urban areas. This influence becomes less in rural areas, due to atmospheric mixing and transformation processes. For estimating the source strength of soot particles emitted by vehicles (veh), soot particle emission factors were calculated using the Operational Street Pollution Model (OSPM). The emission factor for an average vehicle was found to be $(1.5 \pm 0.4) \cdot 10^{14} \text{ \#/(km} \cdot \text{veh)}$. The separation of the emission factor into passenger cars $((5.8 \pm 2) \cdot 10^{13} \text{ \#/(km} \cdot \text{veh)})$ and trucks $((2.5 \pm 0.9) \cdot 10^{15} \text{ \#/(km} \cdot \text{veh)})$ yielded in a 40-times higher emission factor for trucks compared to passenger cars.

1. Introduction

Elemental carbon (EC) is one of the most important components in atmospheric aerosol. The reason for this fact is twofold. EC affects the optical properties of the aerosol, because it is the most efficient particulate light absorber (Horvath, 1993). Es-

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

pecially in strongly polluted regions, high absorption coefficients may decrease the single scattering albedo of the aerosol leading to atmospheric warming (e.g., [Haywood and Shine, 1995](#)). On the other hand, soot with its major compound EC is believed to play a significant role in aerosol-induced health effects (e.g., [Pope and Dockery, 1999](#); [Donaldson et al., 2001](#); [Ye et al., 1999](#)). Soot particles are neither water- nor lipid-soluble and have thus a completely different effect on health than water-soluble compounds ([Kreyling and Scheuch, 2000](#)).

On global scale the mass fraction of EC in the atmosphere is low and does not exceed few percent ([Heintzenberg, 1989](#)). However, the number fraction of soot particles in urban regions can be significant in the size range below 100 nm ([Wiedensohler et al., 2000](#)), due to the short distance to their sources, which are mainly traffic emissions. In the atmosphere, soot particles form an externally mixed subpopulation after emission. During their transport, soot particles either coagulate with other particles or are covered with material such as sulphates, nitrates or organic compounds due to condensation. The main fraction of soot particles close to the source is however externally mixed. For investigating the impact of soot in the atmosphere either on optical properties or on health effects, the partitioning of soot either as externally or internally mixed particles is important to know and to quantify for different aerosols.

Mass concentrations of EC can be measured offline using thermographic methods and cascade impactor or filter samples (e.g., [Cachier et al., 1989](#); [Nunes and Pio, 1993](#)). The time resolution is usually >1 day and short-term variations are not resolved. Another commonly used method is based on the light transmission through a filter (aethalometer, multi-angle absorption photometer, particle soot absorption photometer). Because these instruments measure optical properties to calculate the mass concentration of EC, the results have large uncertainties. None of these techniques is able to determine the number concentration or number size distribution of soot particles directly.

Volatility techniques might provide a good estimate for the fraction of EC. In these techniques, by heating the aerosol to e.g. 300°C, the volatile material (sulfates, nitrates,

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

organic acids) will be evaporated. Measuring the residual non-volatile particles and cores (non-volatile part of internally mixed particles) is thus a good indicator of the EC fraction. The most common online volatility methods to determine the (non-volatile) carbonaceous fraction are based on the principle of passing the aerosol through a heating tube, where specific chemical components are evaporated at predefined temperatures, i.e. Thermodenuder (TD) and Volatility Tandem Differential Mobility Analyzer (VTDMA) (e.g., [Clarke et al., 1987](#); [Pinnick et al., 1987](#); [Burtcher et al., 2001](#)). The VTDMA is an useful instrument to determine the number and volume fraction of carbonaceous material for a narrow particle size fraction ($D_p \pm 10\%$) for atmospheric aerosol measurements (e.g., [Covert and Heintzenberg, 1993](#); [Smith and O'Dowd, 1996](#); [Orsini et al., 1999](#)), but also to investigate particles emitted by diesel engines on-line ([Sakurai et al., 2003a,b](#)).

In this study, the VTDMA developed by [Philippin et al. \(2004\)](#) was used. Here, a monodisperse particle fraction selected by a DMA is heated up to 300°C , a temperature at which most volatile material such as sulphates, nitrates, and most of the organic compounds is evaporated. The residual particles are either the externally mixed soot particles, which do not significantly shrink, or smaller particles. These smaller residuals may consist either of soot or of other non-volatile material such as polymers of organic carbon. Sea salt particles or crustal material is not likely to be found in the measured submicrometer size range. The size distribution of all non-volatile cores can be measured employing a second DMA and a CPC as a mobility size spectrometer. Comparing the measurements at 300°C with the incoming concentration, the number fractions of less-volatile particles (externally mixed soot particles) and more-volatile particles (other residuals) can be determined.

Using ambient number size distributions from a mobility size spectrometer, absolute number concentrations of externally mixed soot particles can be calculated from the VTDMA number fractions at selective particle diameters. A number size distribution of the externally mixed subpopulation of soot particles can then be achieved by fitting a log normal function to the data points.

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

In the frame of this investigation, we employed the VTDMA in conjunction with a mobility size spectrometer measuring number fractions as well as number size distributions of externally mixed soot particles. We determined the externally mixed subpopulation of soot particles for different aerosol types (street canyon, urban background, and continental rural) and different seasons. Furthermore, for the first time, emission rates of diesel soot particles of passenger cars and heavy-duty vehicles were estimated from the street canyon data using the street emission model OSPM (Berkowicz et al., 1997).

2. Experimental

2.1. Measurement sites

The measurements were performed at three sites in Germany: two in the city of Leipzig, and one in Melpitz, near Leipzig.

The first station in Leipzig is a polluted street canyon near the city-center, Eisenbahnstrasse (later referred to as “El”). The street is situated in east-west direction with buildings being about 20 m apart and about 23 m high. The aerosol inlet is placed in a height of 5 m at the northern side of the road. By November 2003, the Eisenbahnstrasse was a busy street with about 23 000 vehicles per working day driving on four lanes. The fleet consisted of 4% heavy-duty vehicles (i.e. buses, vans, and trucks). After opening a by-pass the traffic was reduced by 14% for passenger cars and by 23% for heavy-duty vehicles. The driving characteristics of the vehicles in the street are highly variable and depend on the status of the nearby traffic lights and the traffic volume on the road. The measured particle concentrations represent thus a mix of different traffic conditions.

The second site in Leipzig is located on the roof of the Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research (later referred to as “IfT”) which is in the north-eastern part of Leipzig and approximately 2.5 km away from the Eisenbahnstrasse. The inlet is in a

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

height of 16 m and higher than the surrounding buildings. The shortest distance to a street is about 200 m. This measurement site represents the urban background aerosol (Wehner and Wiedensohler, 2003).

The third measurement site is situated near Melpitz (ME), which is a small village 40 km northeast of Leipzig. The research station of IfT is located on a flat meadow surrounded by agricultural land. The nearest road is a national road and is passing by 1.5 km in the north of the site. The station is regarded as a rural site in the continental polluted boundary layer (Spindler et al., 2001).

2.2. Instrumentation

Size distributions of non-volatile particle cores of certain particle sizes (here 30, 50, 80, and 150 nm) were measured with a Volatility Tandem DMA (VTDMA). The VTDMA (Orsini et al., 1999) is used as an in situ technique, that evaporates volatile compounds at temperatures up to 300°C. The VTDMA-system consists of three steps. In the first step, quasi-monodisperse particles in a polydisperse aerosol are selected by using a Differential Mobility Analyzer (DMA), and counted using a Condensation Particle Counter (CPC, TSI Model 3010). In the second step, the quasi-monodisperse particles are passed through a heating unit, where all volatile compounds (e.g., nitrate, sulfate, volatile organic compounds) are evaporated at 300°C. The remaining material is assumed to consist mainly of non-volatile elemental carbon and possibly a fraction of less volatile organic compounds (Philippin et al., 2004). In the third step, the resulting number size distribution of the non-volatile cores is measured down to a diameter of 12 nm by using a second DMA/CPC-combination. The integral over this number size distribution divided by the initial counted particle concentration yields the number fraction of non-volatile particles, N_{nv} .

The VTDMA was operated in six intensive campaigns at the three measurement sites (EI, IfT, ME) in summer 2003 and winter 2003/2004 for about four weeks each.

Additionally, the number size distributions of ambient particles in the range of 3–800 nm were measured for the whole time with three DMPS-systems (Birmili et al.,

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

1999), one at each measuring site.

For monitoring the traffic in the Eisenbahnstrasse, which is important for later modelling, the vehicles were counted by an optical counting system (Autoscope- Rackvision ISS, Image-Sensing-Systems). This system is able to distinguish passenger cars from heavy-duty vehicles according to the length of each car.

Parallel measurements of the meteorological parameters (wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and relative humidity) were taken at IfT. These data are also representative for the weather conditions at the roof level in the Eisenbahnstrasse.

2.3. Data processing

Atmospheric measurements using the VTDMA technique have shown that particles of one selected diameter may consist of different fractions of non-volatile material (e.g., Philippin et al., 2004; Sakurai et al., 2003a). As indicated in Fig. 1, there always exist particles, which are almost completely composed of non-volatile material, and which change their size less than 5% in diameter after heating. These particles are called less-volatile particles and represent for the selected size range of 30 to 150 nm most likely the externally mixed population of soot particles.

Furthermore, there are particles which contain certain amounts of volatile material. They shift their diameter to smaller sizes after heating. These are so called more-volatile particles and characterize either aged soot particles with a cover of condensed volatile material or possibly polymerized organic carbon (Kalberer et al., 2004). The sum of the number fraction of less-volatile and more-volatile particles (N_{lv} and N_{mv} , respectively) is equal to N_{nv} . It provides the percentage of particles of a certain diameter having non-volatile cores of at least 12 nm (lower detection limit). This concept of more- and less-volatile particles was also used in Wehner et al. (2004).

This work concentrates only on the fraction of less-volatile particles, which are assumed to be externally mixed soot particles.

Considering the size distributions measured with the DMPS-system, one can calculate a size distribution of soot particles from the N_{lv} . The number concentration of soot

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

particles at a certain particle diameter results from the fraction of less-volatile particles multiplied by the number concentration of ambient particles in that diameter bin. Calculating for each particle diameter and fitting a log-normal function through the data points returns a soot number size distribution.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Seasonal and regional variability of mean number fractions of soot particles

The periodic behavior of the measured data suggests a grouping of the data into working days and Sundays, which stand exemplarily for non-working days. The data on Saturdays are completely different from the rest and are omitted here.

As a first summary of the measured data the median, the 25%-, and the 75%-percentiles of the less-volatile particle fraction were calculated for summer and winter measurements separating into working days and Sundays. These results are presented in Fig. 2 and are shown for each selected particle diameter (30, 50, 80, and 150 nm).

It can be seen, that the major fraction of less-volatile particles is around 80 nm. That corresponds to the results found in Harris and Maricq (2001), who measured size distributions of diesel exhaust. Their results show a maximum in the same size range. High fractions of less-volatile particles at 80 nm have also been found in former urban measurements as shown in Wehner et al. (2004).

A significant difference in the fraction of soot particles is determined between the different measurement sites. The highest fractions of soot were measured in the street canyon produced by vehicles, i.e. for 80 nm particles on working days in summer, 60% on average. With increasing distance from source indicating less urbanity, the fraction decreases significantly (IfT: 22%, ME: 7%). This decrease in number fraction results from mixing processes occurring during the particle transport, i.e. from dilution of soot aerosol in the street canyon with less polluted air from background. Because of inten-

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

sive solar radiation, which causes a stronger destabilization of air and thus a stronger convection and resulting mixing, this process is more intensive in summer than in winter. In winter, the atmosphere is on average more stable and thus the removal of emissions from the ground layer is decreased. These explanations are confirmed by greater fractions of soot particles in winter (for 80 nm, 26% (IfT) and 13% (ME)), in contrast to the above mentioned values in summer.

However, the measurements in the street canyon show the opposite. They show a greater amount in summer than in winter. This observation can probably be explained with a changing traffic situation, as mentioned in Sect. 2.1 (cf. Fig. 5). The traffic counts demonstrated, that with beginning of the winter measurements the number of passenger cars and especially the number of heavy duty vehicles decreased, which might have led to a lower soot fraction than in summer.

From Fig. 2 it can also be seen that the fraction of soot particles on Sundays is significantly smaller than on working days. That is because during Sundays, the number of heavy-duty vehicles, which emit probably a significant fraction of the soot particles, is much smaller than on working days.

3.2. Number size distribution of soot particles

As described in Sect. 2.3, the absolute number concentration of soot particles can be calculated for each selected diameter. As Harris and Maricq (2001) described their size distributions of engine emissions with a log-normal fit, this method was also used for our data, as shown in Fig. 3. This fitting allows to inter- and to extrapolate the measured data points and to integrate over the surface area under the curve, which represents the total number concentration of soot particles.

Figure 3 clearly shows the decreasing number concentration of soot particles with increasing distance from source. It can also be seen, that the geometric mean diameter of the soot mode shifts to larger sizes with distance from source. In summer, the maximum of the soot peak in the street canyon is found at a particle diameter of 65 nm, whereas in the urban background and in the rural site it is at a diameter of 75, and

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

105 nm, respectively. In winter, the mean diameter is not as variable as in summer. It shifts only from 70 nm in EI to 85 nm in ME. The shift of soot peaks possibly arises from transformation processes in the atmosphere, which happen especially to smaller particles. Due to condensation or coagulation, pure soot particles emitted by vehicles may adsorb volatile material on their way from sources to rural regions. Small particles grow relatively more than larger particles do, if they adsorb the same amount of condensing material. Therefore, smaller particles are no longer found in the mode of externally mixed soot particles. Thus, the number of smaller soot particles reduces in contrast to that of larger ones, and the mean diameter of the mode shifts relatively towards larger diameters.

The total number of soot particles, given by the integral over their number size distribution (in the size range from 3 to 800 nm), is presented in Table 1. In summer, on working days, the number concentration in the street canyon was 11 times higher than at the urban background and 22 times higher than at the rural site. On Sundays, there is no significant difference between rural and urban background concentration, but between the street canyon and the background concentration. It seems to be, that the lower emissions on Sundays are not enough to influence the urban background. Thus, the concentrations at this measurement site are similar to those in Melpitz. In the street canyon, there is less mixing and therefore, the low emissions are sufficient to increase the soot concentrations significantly.

3.3. Diurnal variation of the number fraction of soot particles

Averaging the number fraction of soot particles on working days and Sundays in a 1-h time resolution results in a diurnal profile as shown in Fig. 4. This figure represents the results exemplarily at a selected diameter of 80 nm. (The maximum peak of the soot mode is around 80 nm and this diameter shows the highest diurnal variation.) The profiles for working days contain five times more data and appear therefore much smoother than those for Sundays.

The diurnal cycle shows a similar course as the traffic cycle (cf. Fig. 5). In night

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

hours, there are relatively small amounts of soot (about 40% in EI, 20% in lft, and 10% in ME). The minimum is found at the time between 02:00 and 04:00. With the start of the rush-hour traffic on working days at 05:00, the soot fraction increases to approx. 60% in EI, 40% in lft, and 20% in Melpitz. This first maximum is found at 07:00 to 08:00.

5 In the urban background and rural site, the fraction decreases in summer until noon. The reason for this behavior seems to be the decrease in traffic and the developing boundary layer, which provides a higher dilution of the pollutants near the ground. In the afternoon, when the boundary layer is well-mixed, there are sometimes lower soot fractions than during nighttime. In contrast to these observations, the narrow
10 street canyon of the Eisenbahnstrasse prevents efficient dilution. This fact leads to a persistently high soot fraction. In the evening, at the EI site, a second maximum can be seen, which corresponds to the evening rush-hour. In the late evening at every measuring site, the soot fraction decreases to its night time minimum.

In winter, after the morning maximum, the fraction of soot particles stays at its maxi-
15 mum level. The fraction does not decrease strongly as in summer, because of a more stable atmosphere and thus less dilution of near-ground emitted soot particles with less polluted aerosol from aloft. A second maximum in the early evening, which correlates with the maximum in traffic number can also be seen.

On Sundays, in summer, the lft and ME site show a relatively constant temporal
20 distribution of the soot fraction which is independent of the traffic cycle. The traffic as the primary source has less impact on the soot fraction than mixing and transformation processes. In contrast to that, in the street canyon, the traffic impact is much more important. The cycle of the soot fraction follows the traffic cycle but shows a difference to that on working days. On Sundays, there is no early rush hour but an increased
25 traffic volume in the afternoon. A maximum in the soot fraction can therefore be seen in the afternoon.

Summarizing, the fraction of soot particles depends mainly on the current traffic volume, which is shown by the diurnal variation in the EI site being parallel to diurnal traffic cycle. With increasing distance from source, this influence becomes less signifi-

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

cant, while the influence of atmospheric mixing and transformation processes becomes more and more important. These processes change the number concentration, size, and composition of the particles and decrease therefore the number of externally mixed soot particles.

5 **4. Estimation of emission factors**

4.1. Methods

As it was shown in Sect. 3, the soot concentrations measured in the street canyon correlate with the traffic emissions. Furthermore, they are a function of the dilution conditions in the canyon. The dilution in a street canyon depends mainly on the wind speed (the higher the wind speed the lower the soot concentration) as well as on the wind direction. As written before, the Eisenbahnstrasse is oriented in an east-western direction and the monitoring station is located on the north side of the street canyon. When the wind comes from southerly directions, the monitoring station receives less polluted air from the background due to a vortex-like air circulation inside the street canyon. In contrast to that, when the wind comes from northern directions, about four times higher soot concentrations are detected at the inlet.

The relationship between the street concentration of either particle number or any trace gas and the meteorological as well as the traffic conditions was investigated by Berkowicz et al. (1997). They developed the Operational Street Pollution Model (OSPM), which is able to describe the source-receptor relationship in a street canyon. The usual purpose of this model is to calculate the particle or trace gas concentration in the street based on a given emission strength and meteorology. It also can be used for an inverse modelling (Palmgren et al., 1999) calculating in-situ emissions based on available measurements of the concentration, which was done during this investigation.

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

The emission strength in a street Q can be described by (Ketzel et al., 2003):

$$Q = \frac{C_{\text{street}} - C_{\text{background}}}{F(\text{meteorology, traffic})} = \frac{C_{\text{diff}}}{F}, \quad (1)$$

where C_{street} , $C_{\text{background}}$ are the measured concentrations in the street canyon and in the urban background ($1/\text{cm}^3$) (e.g. in the street/at the roof level). The difference between both variables (C_{diff}) is the given contribution of the traffic to the measured street concentration. Q represents the emission density ($1/(\text{m}\cdot\text{s})$), and F the function describing the dilution, calculated by OSPM, (s/m^2). The function F depends mainly on meteorology (wind direction and wind speed) but also on the traffic flow (speed and number of vehicles). If there is detailed information about traffic counts in the street, one can calculate the emission factor for each type of vehicle using the following relationship:

$$Q \left(\frac{1}{\text{km} \cdot \text{s}} \right) = \sum_k N_k \left(\frac{\text{veh}}{\text{s}} \right) \times q_k \left(\frac{1}{\text{km} \cdot \text{veh}} \right), \quad (2)$$

with N_k and q_k being the traffic flow and the emission factor for any type k of vehicle.

The emission factor of a vehicle (q) describes the number of particles or the mass of any trace gas emitted by a vehicle (veh) during a driving distance of one kilometer. The emission factor is also experimentally measured for vehicles on chassis dynamometers and often published in literature. These laboratory results are often very sensitive to the way the exhaust is diluted and are thus not always comparable to emissions under real world conditions (e.g., Kittelson, 1998; Graskow et al., 2000).

4.2. Emission factors at Eisenbahnstrasse

The emission factor for the total particle number and for NO_x were calculated first to compare with modelled emission factors published in literature (e.g., Ketzel et al., 2003; Gidhagen et al., 2004). In a second step, emission factors for soot particles from the VTDMA measurements were calculated.

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

4.2.1. Emission factors of the total particle number and NO_x at Eisenbahnstrasse

The averaged diurnal variation of the measured street contribution C_{diff} for the total number of particles as well as for the NO_x concentration in a certain time period (22 August 2003 to 30 September 2003) was calculated for working days. Using relationship (1) and the modelled values of the dilution function F based on the measured meteorology in the urban background, the emission density Q for each hour of the averaged working day was calculated. Using relationship 2 the average emission factor q was calculated by dividing the emission density Q by the total traffic volume N for each hour of the daily profile. The traffic counts were available from the automated video counts at Eisenbahnstrasse only for a later time period but the conditions were very similar to those in August and September. The traffic volume can thus be assigned to the measuring period. The average traffic speed in the street was approx. 35 km/h.

For the daytime hours 08:00–20:00, the emission factors of particles and of NO_x per average vehicle were found to be $(4.9 \pm 1.2) \cdot 10^{14} \text{ \#/(km} \cdot \text{veh)}$ and $(1.52 \pm 0.13) \text{ gNO}_x\text{/(km} \cdot \text{veh)}$, respectively. The comparison with other studies shows good agreement. Measurements in a street canyon in Denmark (Jagtvej, Copenhagen) and in Stockholm reveal similar values for the particle emissions as those in Eisenbahnstrasse, with $(2.8 \pm 0.5) \cdot 10^{14} \text{ \#/(km} \cdot \text{veh)}$ and $(1.3 \pm 0.2) \text{ gNO}_x\text{/(km} \cdot \text{veh)}$ (Ketzel et al., 2003) as well as $3.9 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ \#/(km} \cdot \text{veh)}$ (Gidhagen et al., 2004), respectively. The differences between the emission factors calculated for the three street canyons basically result from different traffic conditions, due to q depending on the fleet-mix. During the scandinavian measurements a heavy-traffic share of 6–8% and a 7% fraction of diesel fuelled cars was found. In contrast to that, in the Eisenbahnstrasse, the rate of heavy-traffic was slightly lower (2–5%) but the fraction of diesel cars in Germany is much higher (approx. 25%, national study, HBEFA 2004).

Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

4.2.2. Emission factors of soot particles at Eisenbahnstrasse

In the previous section it was demonstrated, that the approach used here for calculating emission factors is reasonable. In a further step, the method was thus applied to calculate also emission factors of soot particles.

5 The calculation of the soot particle emission factors requires the soot concentrations in the street canyon (EI) and in the urban background (IfT) simultaneously. Unfortunately, only one VTDMA-system was available and thus, the measurements had to be accomplished in different time periods. For estimating the emission factor it was therefore necessary to calculate the street contribution C_{diff} from the concentrations
10 in the street and in the urban background during different time periods. The periods were chosen according to comparable background size distributions (measured with DMPS). It was figured out, that the summer measurements in EI and IfT showed similar conditions of background aerosol, as presented in Fig. 6. So, these periods were used to calculate C_{diff} .

15 The calculation of emission factors for soot particles was done in the same way as for the emission factors of the total particle number described in Sect. 4.2.1. They were calculated for working days and Sundays for soot particles of four different sizes (30, 50, 80, and 150 nm). The diurnal profiles of these emission factors are shown in Fig. 7.

q is the emission factor per average vehicle and thus correlates with the fleet mixture. The variation of the fleet mix is illustrated also in Fig. 7 showing the ratio of the number of heavy-duty vehicles to passenger cars. The figure demonstrates, that q increases, if the number of trucks increases in contrast to the number of cars and vice versa. That is due to a higher emission rate of trucks than of cars.

25 The daytime average of q on working days for each measured size is shown in Fig. 8. The integration of the number size distribution (log-normal fit) yields the total number of soot particles, which are emitted by an average vehicle over a distance of one kilometer and is $(1.5 \pm 0.4) \cdot 10^{14} \text{ \#/(km \cdot veh)}$.

Apart from calculating the emission factors of soot particles of an average car it

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page	
Abstract	Introduction
Conclusions	References
Tables	Figures
◀	▶
◀	▶
Back	Close
Full Screen / Esc	
Print Version	
Interactive Discussion	

was also possible to separate the emission factors for passenger cars and heavy-duty vehicles. For this purpose, relationship (2) was used. An equation system was set up consisting of two equations, one for working day and one for Sunday conditions. The results are presented in Fig. 8. The integral over the modes is $(5.8 \pm 2) \cdot 10^{13}$ for cars and $(2.5 \pm 0.9) \cdot 10^{15} \text{ \#/(km \cdot veh)}$ for heavy-duty vehicles. That result demonstrates, that trucks emit more than 40 times higher soot concentrations than cars.

5. Summary and conclusions

In the frame of this investigation, a Volatility Tandem DMA (VTDMA) was used to measure the non-volatile number fraction of submicrometer particles by evaporating volatile material of particles of certain diameters (here 30, 50, 80, and 150 nm). This method was used to differentiate the fraction of externally mixed soot particles from other non-volatile material. To determine the spatial and temporal distribution of these soot particles, the VTDMA was operated at different places and in different seasons. The measurements took place in the city of Leipzig, Germany, in a street canyon (Eisenbahnstrasse, EI) as well as in the urban background (Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research, IfT). A third rural measuring site was located near Melpitz (ME). The VTDMA was measuring at these sites in summer 2003 as well as in winter 2003/2004 during about 4 weeks each.

The number fraction of externally mixed soot particles varied for different particle diameters and showed spatial as well as temporal differences. The measurements during this campaign confirm, that the soot fraction depends on the traffic emissions to an important degree. The major fraction of soot particles was always found around 80 nm, which corresponds to the results of diesel emission measurements. The number fraction of soot particles was decreasing with decreasing urbanity, i.e. with increasing distance from source. The highest fraction with an average of 60% at 80 nm was measured in the street canyon, whereas it was only 25% at the IfT-, and 15% at the ME-site. The reduction of the number fraction of externally mixed soot particles was

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

probably caused by the dilution of these traffic emissions with less polluted background aerosol.

5 Seasonal variations of the soot fraction resulted mainly from the mixing layer height, which is connected to the intensity of vertical exchange. Due to a more prevalent stable atmosphere, the vertical mixing inside the boundary layer is reduced in winter time, whereas in summer convection enhances vertical mixing with cleaner air from aloft. Therefore, the emitted particles are trapped near the ground, which leads to a higher measured fraction of those particles in winter than in summer. On winter working days, the soot fraction was 13% at the rural site, and 26% at the urban background, but in
10 summer, it was only 6% and 22%, respectively. The results from the street canyon were not comparable in this way, because the traffic conditions were not similar during both measuring periods.

The diurnal cycle of the soot fractions followed the diurnal cycle of the traffic, especially in the street canyon. With increasing number of cars and trucks, the number
15 fraction of soot particles was increasing. The soot fractions at the IfT and in ME correlated also with the traffic conditions on nearby roads, but in summer this behavior was more controlled by meteorology, i.e. with starting convection in the later morning, the soot fraction was decreasing even though the number of vehicles was not reducing.

Using the ambient number size distributions from parallel DMPS measurements, the
20 number size distribution of the externally mixed subpopulation of soot particles was calculated. The total number concentration of soot particles, estimated by integrating the number size distribution, was approx. 6500 \#/cm^3 at the EI-station in summer. This concentration is more than 10 times higher than in the urban background and more than 20 times higher than in the rural site.

25 Combining the number concentration of soot particles in the street canyon and in the urban background in a street pollution model (OSPM), emission factors of soot particles were calculated. In contrast to the emission factors measured at chassis dynamometers, they give information about the emissions resulting from real driving conditions, real fleet averages and from atmospheric mixing processes. The emission factor of an

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

average vehicle was found to be $(1.5 \pm 0.4) \cdot 10^{14} \# / (\text{km} \cdot \text{veh})$. This value depends on the fleet, which consisted of 96% passenger cars and of 4% trucks, busses, etc. on working days. The separation of the emissions into passenger cars and heavy-duty vehicles led to a more than 40 times higher emission factor for heavy-duty vehicles than for cars.

This study demonstrates, that the traffic emissions have a major impact on the particle number concentration in urban atmosphere. Soot particles mainly originating from combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles are emitted into the atmosphere and form an externally mixed subpopulation. The presented emission factors provide a number concentration of how many particles are emitted.

Due to atmospheric mixing and transformation processes the fraction of soot particles decreases with increasing distance from source but can stay significantly even in rural regions. The averaged fractions measured during this campaign can be seen as standards for different polluted aerosols, seasons, or size ranges and could be used in future transport or climate model studies.

Acknowledgements. This work was funded by the FAT (Fördervereinigung Automobiltechnik).

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Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

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Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

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Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

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**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

Table 1. Mean total number concentration of soot particles in $\#/cm^3$ resulting from the integral over the distributions shown in Fig. 3. The values after \pm describe the maximum/minimum variations resulting from the integral over the log-normal fittings through the 25- and 75%-percentiles in Fig. 3. Note that in winter the traffic conditions in the street canyon are not similar to those in summer. Opening a by-pass was leading to reduction of the traffic in EI during the winter measurements.

measuring site	summer		winter	
	working days	Sundays	working days	Sundays
street canyon (EI)	6400±4250	4000±1750	3800±2500	1800±875
urban background (IfT)	570±375	240±135	770±475	330±185
rural (ME)	250±130	190±65	270±125	230±130

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

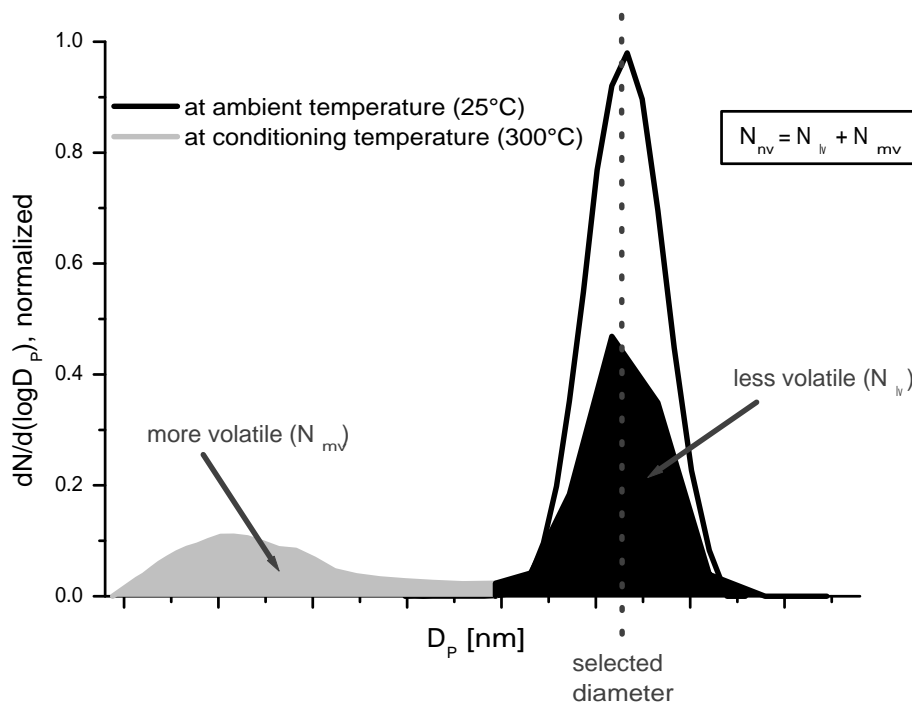


Fig. 1. Partitioning of the size distribution of non-volatile cores into a less- and a more-volatile fraction.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

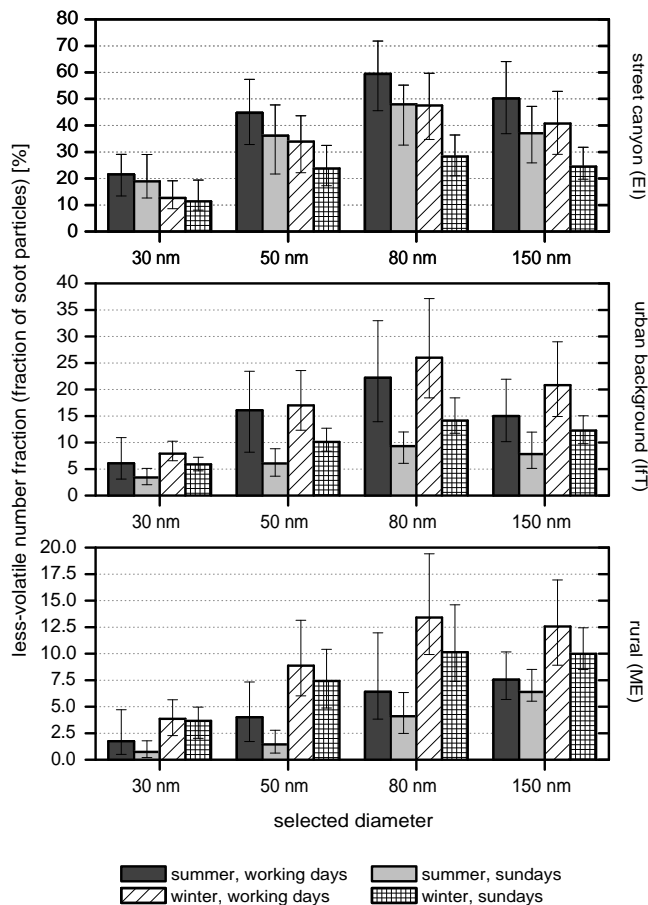


Fig. 2. Average number fraction of less-volatile particles at Eisenbahnstrasse (upper row), IfT (middle row), and Melpitz (lower row). The error bars correspond to the 25%- and 75%-percentiles. Note, that there are different scales for each station.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

Size distributions of soot particles and emission factors

D. Rose et al.

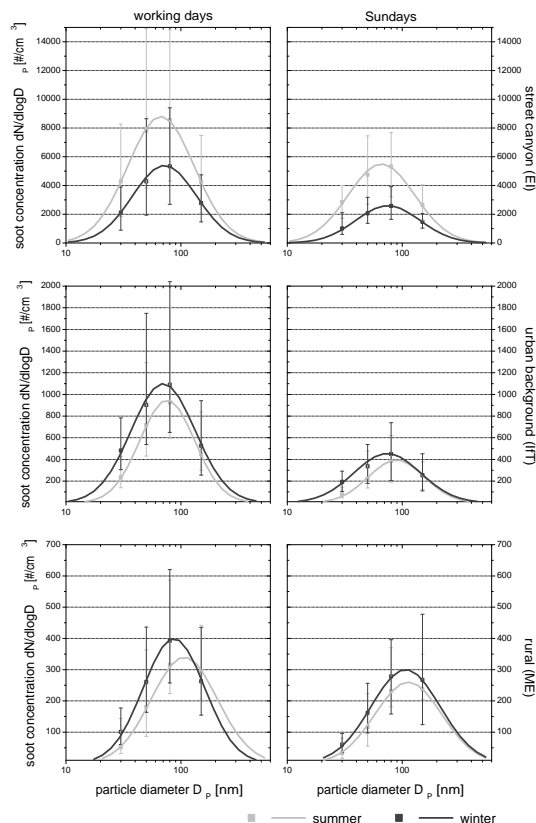


Fig. 3. Average soot particle concentration at 30, 50, 80, and 150 nm on working days and on Sundays, calculated from VTDMA- and DMPS-data, as well as log-normal fit at Eisenbahnstrasse (upper row), IFT (middle row), and Melpitz (lower row). The error bars give the 25%- and 75%-percentiles and are rather big, due to high diurnal variations. High variabilities for EI measurements result also from different wind directions within the street canyon as is being explained in Sect. 4.1.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

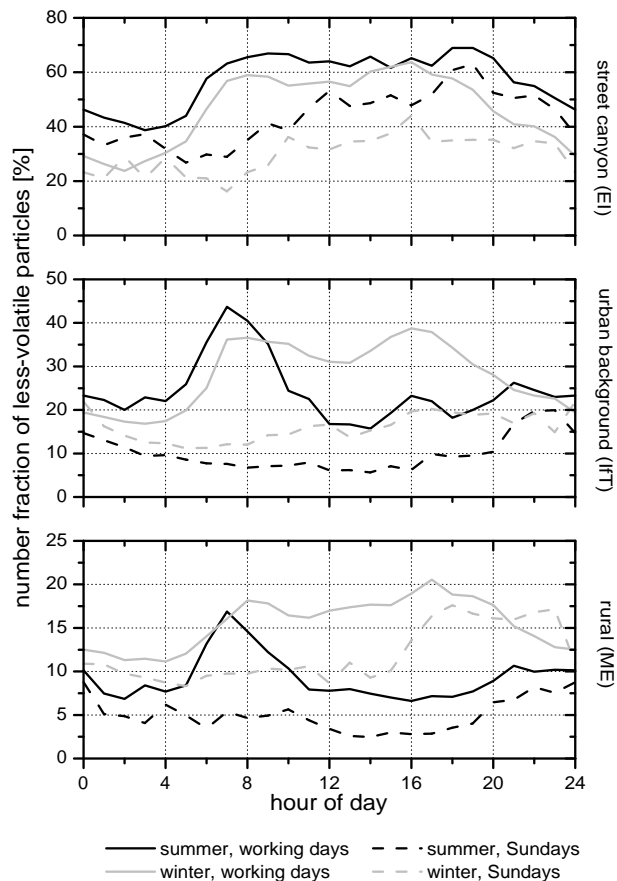


Fig. 4. Mean diurnal number fraction of soot particles of 80 nm in diameter at Eisenbahnstrasse (upper row), IfT (middle row), and Melpitz (lower row).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

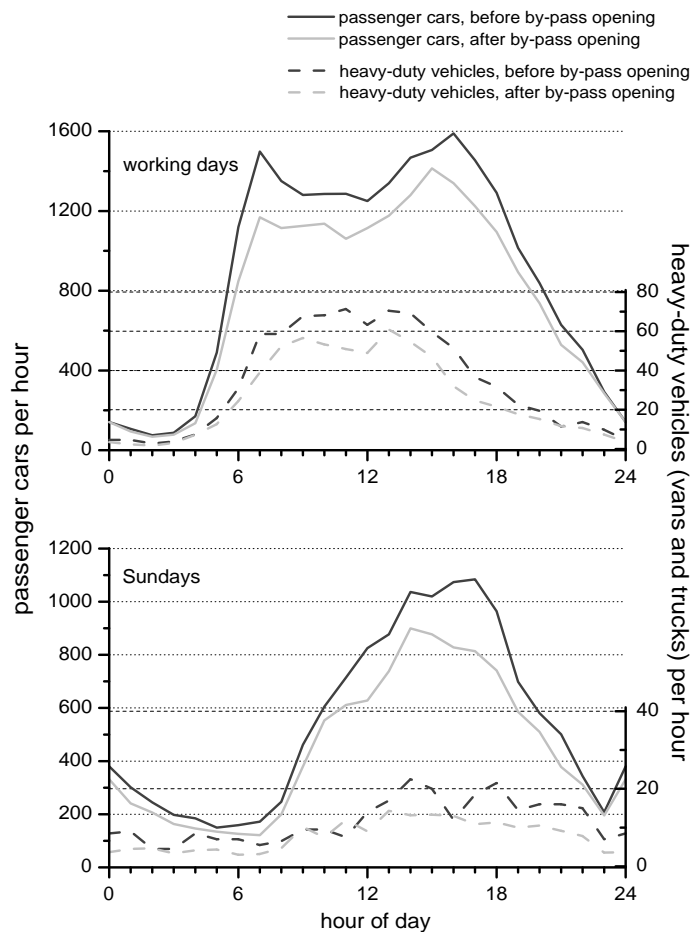


Fig. 5. Mean diurnal traffic volume at the EI-site on working days (upper row), and on Sundays (lower row).

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

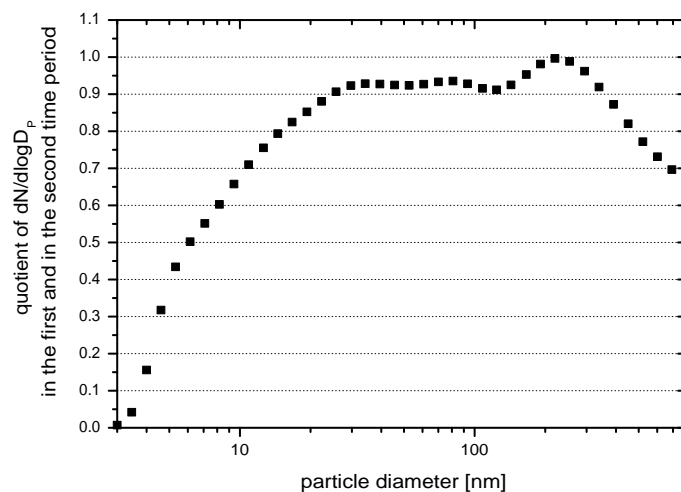


Fig. 6. Comparison of the averaged particle size distribution in the urban background (IfT) during two different time periods in summer.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

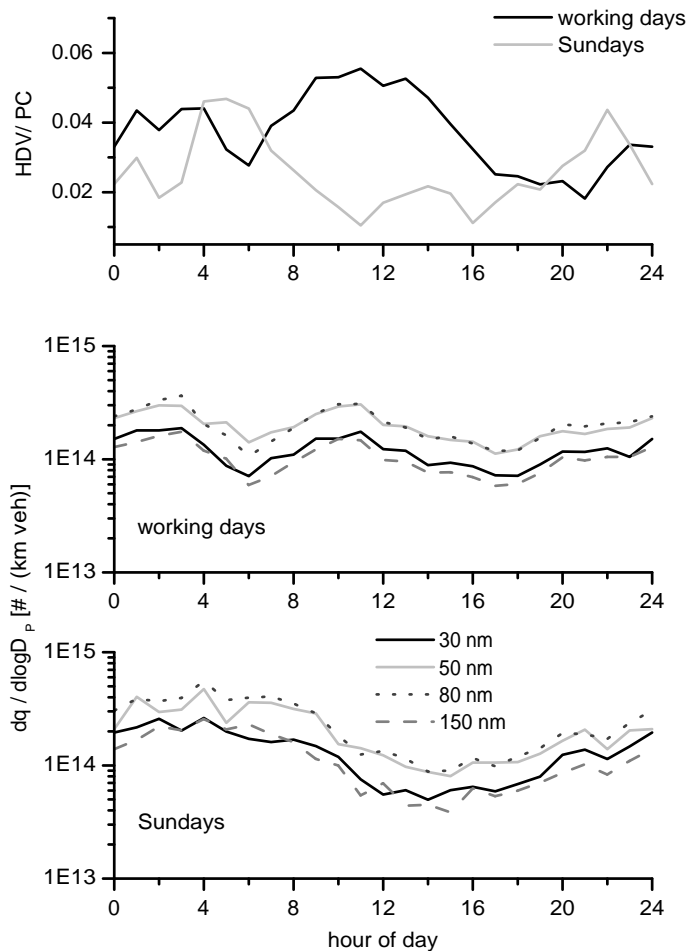
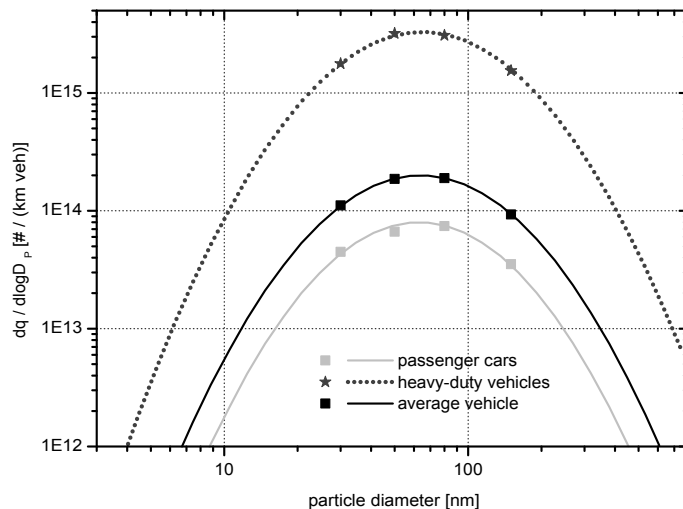


Fig. 7. Ratio of number of heavy-duty vehicles (HDV) to passenger cars (PC) (upper row), and soot emission factor per average vehicle on working days (middle row) and on Sundays (lower row).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

**Size distributions of
soot particles and
emission factors**

D. Rose et al.

**Fig. 8.** Emission factor of soot particles for different kinds of vehicle.[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU